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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/567,323

02/07/2006

Peter Bauer

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EXAMINER

MCMILLAN, JESSICA L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2875

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/05/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/567,323

Applicant(s)

BAUER ET AL.

Examiner

Jessica L. McMillan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-19, 24, 25, 31 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 20-23 and 26-30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/07/2006.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 16, 26 and 27 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claim 16, the phrase "such as" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d). Appropriate correction is required.

Regarding claims 26 and 27, the phrase "especially" renders the claims indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 16, 17, 18, 24, 25 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Ter-Hovhannisian (US 7,121,675 B2)** in view of **Avenwedde et al. (US 7,107,779 B2)**.

Regarding **claim 16**, Ter-Hovhannisian discloses a refrigerating appliance (figure 1), such as a refrigerator or freezer, comprising: an interior space (see figure 1, where shelves (12) are located) and an internal lighting system (20) located in said interior space. Ter-Hovhannisian discloses light emitting diodes (22) but is silent about organic

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light emitting diodes. Avenwedde et al. disclose a refrigerating appliance uses organic light emitting diodes (24) as a light source. OLED light sources are not affected by low temperatures and thus makes OLEDs ideal for cold environments such as freezers. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the LEDs of Ter-Hovhannisian with the OLEDs of Avenwedde et al. because of the OLEDs tolerance for cold temperatures.

Regarding **claims 17 and 18**, Ter-Hovhannisian and Avenwedde et al. disclose the refrigerating appliance according to claim 16, and Ter-Hovhannisian discloses LEDs on an inner wall of an interior space (see figure 1; 20). Avenwedde et al. discloses OLEDs (24) in a refrigerating appliance. Exchanging the LEDs of Ter-Hovhannisian with the OLEDs Avenwedde et al. would yield that which is claimed.

Regarding **claim 24**, Ter-Hovhannisian further discloses a housing (10) joined together from a plurality of housing panels forming inner walls of an interior space.

Regarding **claim 25**, Ter-Hovhannisian and Avenwedde et al. disclose the refrigerating appliance according to claim 24, Ter-Hovhannisian further discloses LEDs (20) on a housing panel. Avenwedde et al. discloses an OLEDs (24). Combining the OLEDs of Avenwedde et al. with the refrigerating appliance of Ter-Hovhannisian would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made in order to provide reliable illumination to the appliance.

Regarding **claim 32**, Ter-Hovhannisian, Avenwedde et al. and Caldwell disclose the refrigerating appliance according to claim 16, and Caldwell further disclose a display

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panel for displaying symbols, said symbols formed by organic light-emitting diodes (see paragraph 0029]).

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Ter-Hovhannisian (US 7,121,675 B2)** and **Avenwedde et al. (US 7,107,779 B2)** as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of **Lange et al. (US 6,478,445 B1)**.

Regarding **claim 19**, Ter-Hovhannisian and Avenwedde et al. disclose the refrigerating appliance according to claim 16, and Ter-Hovhannisian further disclose a housing (10) surrounding an interior space but are silent about a cavity filled with an insulating material. Lange et al. disclose a refrigeration appliance with a space between case 106 and liners 108 and 110 and foam-in-place insulation between liners 108 and 110. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include insulation in the refrigeration appliance of Ter-Hovhannisian in order to help the appliance to maintain a certain level of coolness to keep the items inside cold and fresh.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Ter-Hovhannisian (US 7,121,675 B2)** and **Avenwedde et al. (US 7,107,779 B2)** as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of **Caldwell (US 2003/0122455 A1)**.

Regarding **claim 31**, Ter-Hovhannisian and Avenwedde et al. disclose the refrigerating appliance according to claim 16, but are silent about a display and control panel. Caldwell discloses a control and display panel (see figure 3A) in a refrigeration appliance (figure 1). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at

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the time the invention was made to include a control and display panel in the refrigerating appliance in order to see and adjust settings of the appliance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-23 and 26-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: prior art of record taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious, a refrigerating appliance with an OLED integrated in a wall of a built in component (claim 20), an OLED including a luminous area filling between 20% and 50% of an inner wall of an interior space (claim 21-23), an OLED including a substrate having an electrode, at least one layer of organic material and a counter electrode with substrate being formed as a transparent plate (claims 26 and 27), an interior space that includes a built in component with opposed surfaces that are formed from transparent plates, forming substrates for OLEDs disposed between transparent plates (claims 28 and 29) and a plurality of OLEDs emitting light having a different color spectra from one another (claim 30), in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claims.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jessica L. McMillan whose telephone number is (571) 272-5510. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Renee Luebke can be reached on 571-272-2009. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JLM
May 22, 2007



RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER